

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1-12 have been amended. The amendments are simply to clarify what is already in the claims, and therefore should not introduce any type of prosecution history estoppel. Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

In the Specification

The specification has been amended as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. The computer program listing appendix on pages 21-32 has been deleted from the specification and submitted on duplicate CD-ROMs that are compliant with 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(e) and 31 C.F.R. § 1.96(c)(2). More specifically, the computer program listing appendix is being submitted on a first compact disc labeled "Copy 1" and on a second compact disc labeled "Copy 2." The disc labeled Copy 2 is an exact duplicate of the disc labeled Copy 1. The file contained on each disc is "appendix.txt", 17166 bytes, created on August 27, 2004.

Each disk is compatible with IBM PC/XT/AT computers, is compatible with the MS-Windows operating system, uses ASCII Carriage Returns plus ASCII Line Feeds, contains data that is not dependent on control characters or codes which are not defined in the ASCII character set, and contains uncompressed data.

Claim objections

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-11 have been amended to recite a "computer implemented method." Applicant submits that this amendment overcomes the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,721,938 to Stuckey ("Stuckey"). MPEP § 2131 requires that, "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim..." Applicant submits that this reference fails to teach every element of claim 1 and does not anticipate the subject matter of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 1 recites in part, "identifying logically significant conjunctions within the said partially analysed text passage...."

Stuckey fails to teach or suggest at least the above recited element. More specifically, the text of Stuckey relied on in the Office action simply states "[a]fter it identifies all the words in the sentence, it goes through a series of other tests to determine if there are any impossible situations if the words are marked as is. For example, if three words occur adjacently without any intervening commas or coordinating conjunctions that can all be nouns, when at least two of them cannot be nouns in that context, e.g. 'Authors pen lines.' " (col. 17, lines 44-50). Accordingly, the cited text of Stuckey is attempting to "determine if there are any impossible situations," and fails to teach or suggest identifying a type of conjunction (e.g., logically significant). Applicant submits that not all conjunctions are logically significant. For example, top level conjunctions may be significant, whereas subordinate conjunctions may not be (see Applicant's specification, page 13, line 41 to page 14, line 13). Furthermore, the benefit of identifying logically significant conjunctions is that the logical structure of a sentence may be unambiguously determined and highlighted by reformatting the text layout (see, for example, Applicant's specification at end of page 18).

Accordingly, Stuckey fails to teach or suggest at least the above recited element as required by MPEP § 2131 and claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Claims 4-6, 8, and 9 depend from and further limit claim 1 and are allowable for at least that reason.

Claim 12 recites a similar element to that described above with respect to claim 1 and is allowable over Stuckey for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 3, 7, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Stuckey in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,642,522 to Zaenen et al. ("Zaenen"), U.S. Patent No. 5,889,523 to Wilcox et al. ("Wilcox"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,137,906 to Dionne (Dionne"). However, claims 2, 3, 7, 10, and 11 depend from and further limit claim 1, which is allowable over Stuckey as previously described. The references of Zaenen, Wilcox, and Dionne fail to cure the previously described deficiencies of Stuckey, and claims 2, 3, 7, 10, and 11 are therefore also allowable.

Conclusion

All issues regarding patentability having been addressed, Applicant requests notice of allowance of claims 1-12. Should the Examiner deem that any further action or amendment is needed to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

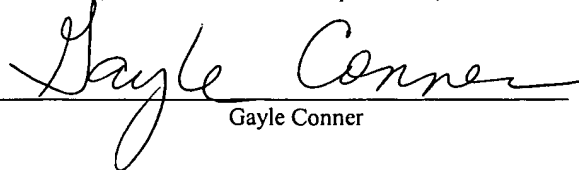


Timothy F. Bliss
Registration No. 50,925

Dated: September 7, 2004
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789
Telephone: 972/739-8638
File: 25748.4

r-83978.1

This paper and fee are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV334578710US to Addressee service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 7, 2004.


Gayle Conner